

FROM W. J. BRYAN

WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

IT IS REALLY A GOOD THING

Some Planks He Regards as Stronger Than Others—Imperialism, He Thinks, Will Be the Leading Campaign Issue.

LINCOLN—W. J. Bryan on Thursday made public the following statement relating to the democratic platform adopted at St. Louis:

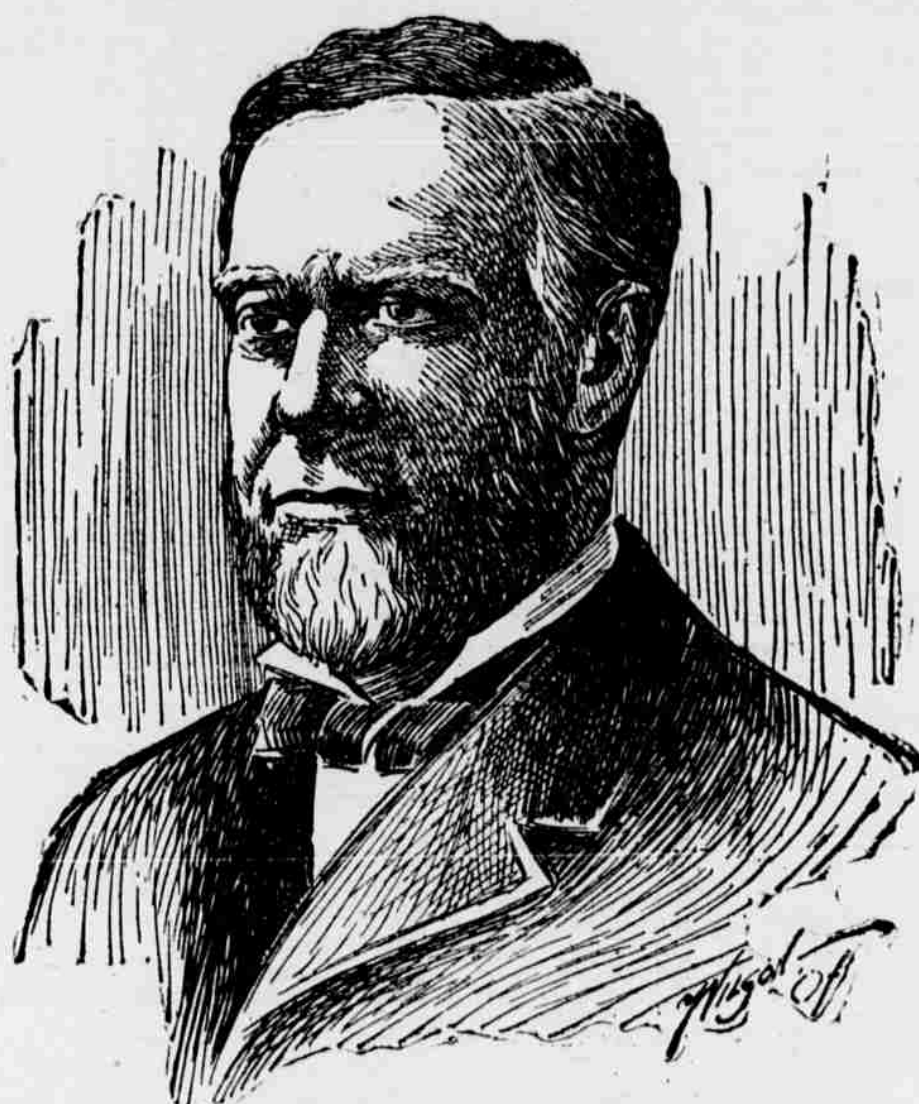
The plank on imperialism is positive, strong and satisfactory to the entire party and this question becomes the paramount issue of the campaign.

The tariff plank is good, but it was made so on a close vote in the committee and largely against the opposition of Mr. Parker's adherents. The

the committee was unanimous. The sub-committee reported a plank in favor of an increase of the navy, but this was stricken out in the full committee.

The platform has a plank in favor of the enlargement of the scope of the interstate commerce commission and in favor of irrigation.

On the whole the platform is good. From a western standpoint its greatest defect is that it makes no mention of the money question. An attempt was made to secure a plank opposing the melting of the silver dollar, opposing the asset currency and branch banks, and expressing a preference for the United States note (ordinarily known as the greenback), but, having refused to put in a gold plank, the committee was not willing to have any phase of the money question alluded to. While the motion to reaffirm the Kansas City platform was voted down there was a considerable vote in favor of its reaffirmation and the western members of the com-



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plank which was voted down favored "a wise, conservative and business-like" revision, made "with due regard to existing conditions." The committee thought that these qualifying words emasculated the plank and left it so weak as to give no hope to tariff reformers.

The anti-trust plank is a good one. It demands the enforcement of the criminal law against the trusts; it demands the abolition of rebates and discriminations, and it demands the withdrawal of interstate commerce privileges from the trusts when once convicted. The plank is infinitely superior to the republican plank, and with a president who desired to destroy the trusts would be a sufficient plank, but as this trust plank was also substituted by the full committee there is reason to fear that it may not be in keeping with the ideas of the candidate.

The labor plank is all that could be desired. It declares against government by injunction; it favors arbitration and the eight-hour day, and denounces the methods that have been resorted to in the Colorado strike, but as these planks were added in the full committee some uncertainty exists as to the candidate's position.

The platform declares in favor of the reduction of the army. Upon this

committee, together with a few from the south, stood together and secured enough changes in the platform to make it a presentable document and worthy of the support of the party.

PAUL KRUGER PASSES AWAY.

Former President of the Transvaal Republic Dies in Switzerland.

CLARENS, Switzerland.—Paul Kruger, former president of the Transvaal republic, died here at 3 o'clock Thursday morning from pneumonia and supervening heart weakness. Mr. Kruger lost consciousness Monday. His daughter and son-in-law were with him at the time of his death. He had been out only once since his arrival here, at the beginning of last month.

The ex-president's body was embalmed, and this afternoon the remains will be placed in a vault pending funeral arrangements. Application will be made to the British government to transport the remains to the Transvaal. In the meantime they will be temporarily interred here.

Mr. Kruger, who was staying at the Villa Du Boichet, had been gradually failing for a long time, but he was able to attend to affairs, read and receive visits until Saturday. A change for the worse set in on Sunday. He became unconscious Monday and remained so until his death.

NEWS IN NEBRASKA

FIGHT OVER EQUALIZATION.

Almost Every County Has Kick on Its Own or Neighbor's Assessment.

LINCOLN.—The state house is about to witness the largest aggregation of kickers that has ever assembled there. The board of equalization meets soon to adjust the valuations between counties, and the indications are promising that not a single county will be without representation either to argue against an increase or to demand a raise in the valuations of neighboring counties. While the board has yet to determine upon a formal plan of procedure, it is intimated that the consideration of counties will be taken up in their alphabetical order, Adams being taken up first. The entire galaxy of railway representatives which enlivened the sessions of the board when it was taxing railways will be represented at one time or another during the hearing, demanding that counties which have not been raised in the same ratio as the railways be equalized up. Douglas county, which is regarded by the members of the board as the chief offender, will score the heaviest increase, although it is claimed on behalf of that county that its real estate was assessed up to the limit last year.

The members of the board are standing on doubtful ground just at this time, and little is given out as to the course to be pursued beyond the statement of the governor that the various counties would be brought up to their full valuations, without fear or favor. It is the governor's understanding and that of several other members of the board that it has the right to raise one or all without respect to the valuation of others, the sole object being to bring them all up to the true value.

It is at this juncture that the railways become interested parties. Some members of the board believe that it will be impossible in increasing the valuations of the various counties to bring them up to the cash standard to avoid adding the increase to the railways also. The section of the statute which forms the basis for the board's action provides that the amount which is to be added to or deducted from a county's valuation to bring it to the fair cash value level shall be distributed to all species of property in the same percentage. This means, some railway men believe, that the counties will add the percentage to railway values in the same manner as to other species of property. In such event an increase of 10 per cent in a county would mean that the railway which is already assessed at 69 per cent increase over last year's figures would have to submit to an additional raise of 10 per cent. This is what the railways are afraid of.

On the other hand, many of those who are interested in the matter of fair railway taxation insist that this feature of the law will force the board to add enough to the valuations of the carrying interests to bring them to a level indicated by stocks and bonds, which would have been close to \$60,000,000.

Do Not Need Irrigation.

LINCOLN.—Only two of the western counties—Scotts Bluff and Cheyenne—have required any irrigation this summer, and they have taken much less water than in previous years. The first application of water rights received by the state board of irrigation for some time was filed last week.

Killed by Lightning.

ORD.—Chester Churchill, about 19 years of age, was killed by lightning while shocking wheat. The lightning tore his clothing nearly off his body and set him on fire.

THE STATE AT LARGE.

The new Methodist church at Beemer was dedicated last Sunday.

Edith Hopkins, whose mother lives in Omaha, suicided in Butte, Montana.

Open air church service will be held in Humboldt until the heated term is over.

Ravenna has organized a fifty-two-piece brass band. A large number of the players are members of the old Ravenna cornet band.

Levi Fry, an old resident of Gage county, was adjudged insane by the board of insanity commissioners and ordered taken to the asylum.

The village of Barneston, near the Kansas line in Gage county, has realized enough from licenses in the past five years to make tax levies for city purposes unnecessary.

Preparations have commenced for the coming annual reunion and picnic of the Pioneer and Old Settlers' association of Dakota county, which will be held at Clinton park, adjoining Dakota City, on Thursday, August 25.

There are 891 more children of school age in Omaha than a year ago. The school population is now 31,763. The Second ward made the greatest gain, having 617 more children than a year ago. The Third ward dropped 233.

The case of the state against Ora S. Coffin, charged with statutory assault upon the thirteen-year-old daughter of William Wilson of Bellwood, was concluded in the district court at David City, the jury returning a verdict of guilty.

After his dogs had torn a rattler to pieces, Fred Rheinheimer of McCook picked up the head to examine the teeth. Before he knew it the teeth were fastened in his hand, and a quick run to town for medical assistance was all that saved his life.

Adjutant General Culver has issued the following statement relative to the prospective brigade encampment of the National Guard: "An order will be issued fixing the date of the annual encampment on August 17. If sufficient funds are found available an eight-day encampment will be held."

A storm destroyed seven farm houses, barns, outbuildings, etc., in eastern Loup county. The storm struck a mile north of Taylor, reducing Mr. Britain's dwelling to kindling wood, and traveled southeast, destroying the dwellings of Messrs. Lyon, Brumage, Campbell, Dutton and others.

The Beatrice Creamery company of Lincoln, which some time ago purchased the plant of the Boaworth Produce company at Beatrice, expects soon to erect a new building and storehouse and equip the same with modern machinery for the purpose of working country butter. Stations will be established and butter will be made in Beatrice the same as at the capital city.

"The wheat crop in Nebraska will be from ten to twelve million bushels short of that of last year," said C. G. Crittenden of the Central Granaries company, Lincoln. This estimate is based on reports received by the company from their agents located in different points in the South Platte country.

A telegram was received at Beatrice from Munden, Kan., stating that Daniel Freeman, the first homesteader in the United States and a resident of Gage county, had been seriously injured at that place. The telegram gave no particulars and D. W. Carre, a son-in-law of Mr. Freeman's, left for Munden on the first train for the purpose of bringing the injured man home. Mr. Freeman is 78 years of age.